



Foreign Agricultural Service

**GAIN Report**

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## **The Netherlands**

### **Poultry and Products**

# **Update of the Avian Influenza Outbreak in The Netherlands 2003**

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#### **Report Highlights:**

**The Ministry started culling chickens of seventeen suspect farms. Transport restrictions have been relaxed.**

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
The Hague [NL1], NL

***The Ministry of Agriculture Starts Culling***

At the moment, a total of seventeen farms are suspected of having chickens infected with Avian Influenza. On Saturday, the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture declared a Control Area with a 10 km radius in the area of Barneveld. On Sunday, the Ministry also imposed a Control Area around Laren, about 60 kilometer East of Barneveld. Yesterday and last night, the National Inspection Service for Livestock and Meat (RVV) started culling poultry in Laren and Barneveld. The RVV reportedly has insufficient equipment and has borrowed additional slaughter equipment from the U.K. Minister of Agriculture Veerman reportedly believes that all poultry on all seventeen suspect farms will be culled within a few days.

***Transport Restrictions Have Been Relaxed***

The Dutch Ministry of Agriculture relaxed restrictions on transport of poultry. As from March 4, midnight, it is permitted to transport poultry to slaughterhouses and unoccupied farms. However, prohibitions on transport remain in place in controlled areas. For any transport a health declaration is necessary and poultry need to undergo a veterinary inspection every seven days.

***Italy Is Not the Source of the Avian Influenza Outbreak***

On March 2, the Central Institute for Animal Disease Control (CIDC) in Lelystad identified the virus as a highly pathogenic H7N7 strain of Avian Influenza. Identification of the H7N7 strain rules out any link between this outbreak and AI outbreaks in Italy, where another strain prevails. The most probable carriers of this type are wild ducks. The CIDC informed the Ministry that the risks for human health are negligible. Despite the low risks, the Dutch Food Safety Authority (VWA) will recall poultry products which are produced in the suspect farms after February 22.